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CZECHOSLOVAK POWDER, ARMANESTS, AND REAVY INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The following report gives locations, descriptions, and operational data on some of the major industrial installations in Czecho-slovakia.

I. FACTORIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF EXPLOSIVES AND MITRATION [51c] POWDER

Explosia akc. spol. (Explosia Joint-Stock Company)

The Explosis plant is located at Semtin near Pardubice and was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The buildings are camouflaged by woods, and each building is isolated from its neighbor by blastproof fortifications. The plant produces the most up-to-date type of gunpowder, mostly in the nitration stage, as well as all types of explosites and projectile charges.

Nobel akc. spol. (Nobel Joint-Stock Company)

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The Nobel plant is located at Roztoky near Prague, on the right bank of the Vitava river. It is small and rather old. It produces dynamite.

Sellier-Belot, akc. apol. (Sellier-Belot Joint-Stock Company)

The Sellier-Belot plant is at Vlasim, some 50 kilometers southwast of Prague. Its construction is completely modern. It produces all types of fuses, shell cases for small-arms ammunition, hard grenade charges, rifle and pistol ammunition, and sporting ammunition. The subsidiary plant, formerly the main plant, is located at Prague-Zizkev and produces the same items as the Vlasim Plant. It is now in process of being transferred.

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Towarns na munici v bratislave-Roth (Roth Munitions Factory in Bratislava)

The Roth plant, located in Bratislava, produces shell cases for rifle and shotgun ammunition as well as complete shotgun and rifle ammunition.

II. ARMAMENTS FACTORIES

Skoda akc.spol., Plzen (Skoda Joint-Stock Company, Plzen /now the V. M. Molotov Works/

The Skoda plant in Plzen produces heavy ordnance (artillery pieces).

Zborjovka Strakonice (Strakonice Armaments Plant)

The Strakonice plant produces brass shell cases for artillery ammunition, rifle and pistol semminition, small arms, pistols, and machine guns. In peacetime, production is devoted to the manufacture of bicycles.

Zbrojovka Janecek (Janecek Armaments Plant)

The Janecek plant is in Prague-Pankrac and produces pistols, small arms, and motorcycles of its own brands, as well as the "Java" motorcycle.

Abrojovka Brno (Brno Armaments Plant)

The Brno plant produces Mauser rifles automatic rifles (reportedly of its own design), Brenn machine guns /Brenngun -- Brno-Enfield light machine gun/, pistols, and bicycles. It is reported that after 1948 the USSR caused several machine-tool factories to be converted to munitions plants, to produce parts for the armaments industry.

III. IRON AND STEEL WORKS

Banska a Hutni Spolecnost (Mining and Metallurgy Company)

This plant, the most modern in Czechoslovakia, is at Krinec, on the Moravian-Silesian border, near Tesin.

Vithoricke Zelezarny Klemente Gottwales (Klement Cottwald Vitkovice Ironworks) /formerly1/ Rothschild-Guttmann

The Vitkovice Ironworks is the largest in Cacchoslovakia. It has always been well maintained and kept up to date.

Poldina Hut (Poldi Foundyy)

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The Poldi plant is at Kladno. It produces special steels such as nickel steel and tungsten steel. It is well maintained.

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Prazska Zelezarska Spolecnost (Pragon Ironworks Company)

The main plant of this corporation is in Kladno; the subsidiary plant is in Kraluv Dvur near Beroun. Both plants have been neglected in the last 30 years, and only recently new capital investments were made. The plant produces raw steel and pig iron; pipe casting is done at Kraluv Dvur. Both plants like the rest of the metallurgical industry, were nationalized in 1945, without indemnities to stockholders. The management of the plants has been changed and centralized in a sales organization in Prague.

Rolling mills, wire mills, and pipe mills have always formed a part of these plants.

IV. MACHINE-BUILDING ENTERPRISES

Skoda akc.spol. Plzen (Skoda Joint-Stock Company, Plzen)

The Skoda management is in Prague. The main plant is in Plzen and produces heavy machines, parts, locomotives, heavy ordnance, steel alloys, electric motors, etc.

- 1. The subsidiary plant at Minda Scheslar produces automobiles and diesel engines; during World War II it produced German-type tanks and tractors.
- 2. The subsidiary plant at Blancko produces steam boilers, pipelines, capital equipment for factories, and bathtubs. It has a foundry.
- 3. Several rmall plants scattered throughout Czechoslovakia specialize in producing small parts for precision engineering.

CKD (Cesko-Moravaka Kolben Danek)

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The management of CKD is in Prague-liben. The plants are located in Liben and Vysocany and produce locomotives, steam boilers, factory installations, electric motors, trucks, and internal-combustion engines. The plants were enlarged by the Germans during World War II, for the production of tanks and traction engines.

Tatra-Ringhofferovy Zavody (Tatra-Ringhoffer Enterprises)

The main plant of the Tatra-Ringhoffer Zavody is at Prague-Smichov. It produces rolling stock, steam boilers, and automobile bodies for the Tatra plant.

- 1. The subsidiary plant at Koprivnice produces Tatra trucks and automobiles. German-type tanks and tractors were produced during World War II.
- 2. The subsidiary plant in Kolin produces freight and passenger rolling stock.
- The subsidiary plant in Roudnice produces agricultural machines, plows, tractors, sowing drills, etc.

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4. The subsidiary plant in Cesks Lips produces vencers and lumber for rolling stock and the automobile industry.

Pronibrucuska Tovarna na Stroje (Pronibrucus Machine Factory)

The Pronibruous plant in Brno produces steam engines and water and steam turbines.

Other Plants

Other minor plants, scattered throughout Czechoslovakia, specialize in producing parts, cutting tools, electric motors, and small agricultural machines and implements. These plants have for the most part ceased operations, or have switched to armsments production (parts). Plants of this type are located at Celakovice, Louny, Olonoue, Chrudim, etc.

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